



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- Media Advisory -

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Aviation Bureau Receives Aviation Safety Award

On Monday, April 14, 2008, DPS Aviation Administrator Richard Thacher and other members of the DPS Aviation Bureau were presented with a certificate of Aviation Safety Excellence during a ceremony at DPS Headquarters in Phoenix. The award was presented as a result of an independent Aviation Safety Audit conducted by Phoenix Aviation Managers, Inc., of Kennesaw, Georgia earlier this year.

Mr. Chuck Lombardi, Vice President of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., the State's aviation insurance brokerage firm, made the presentation. He says the DPS Aviation Bureau's outstanding safety record puts them in the top percentile nationwide.

"Congratulations to the very hard working staff of our Aviation Bureau. This award recognizes the critical nature of their job and the fact they perform this function with excellence," said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Arizona DPS has operated aircraft in support of the agency's public safety mission for more than forty years. The Department's Air Rescue helicopter program has operated in some of the most challenging environmental conditions to be found anywhere in the United States for more than 35 years, and was one of the first such programs in the country. During that time, DPS Air Rescue crews have saved thousands of lives, providing an extremely valuable service to the residents of Arizona and those visiting our state.

DPS currently operates five helicopters and four fixed-wing aircraft to provide an immediate, 24-hour per day, statewide air support response capability for critical occurrences and emergency situations, to provide aerial and logistical support for law enforcement, highway safety and traffic enforcement operations, and to provide transport services in support of governmental operations.

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